

Message Text

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43

ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ADP-00 IGA-02 EB-11 L-03 NAS-01 SCI-06

AGR-20 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 RSR-01 /125 W

----- 005337

R 201135 Z JUN 73

FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6707

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

AMEMBASSY FORT LAMY

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: EAID, SU

SUBJ: DETORIORATION SUBSISTENCE BASE IN ARID ZONES

REF: A. STATE 95825; B. KHARTOUM 1163

1. CHARGE CALLED ON MINAG HABASHI JUNE 19 AND OUTLINED U. S. PROPOSAL FOR CONFERENCE CONCERNING DETERIORATION SUBSISTENCE BASE IN ARID ZONES CONTAINED REFTEL A. HABASHI LISTENED WITH INTEREST BUT WITH EVIDENT LACK ENTHUSIASM (IN CONTRAST TO NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR RESEARCH, REFTEL B). HE REVIEWED IN DETAIL HIS INTEREST IN SAHEL/ SUDANIC PROBLEMS BOTH AS GOS PROFESSIONAL AGRICULTURALIST AS WELL AS FORMER FAO OFFICIAL. HE IS ACCORDINGLY QUITE FAMILIAR WITH EXISTING LITERATURE AND AFRICAN EFFORTS PERTAINING TO SEHALIA ZONE.

2. GENERAL THRUST HABASHI' S COMMENTS WAS (A) SUFFICIENT STUDIES HAVE ALREADY BEEN MADE AND ARE ON SHELVES TO PROVIDE BASIS FOR AN ACTION PROGRAM IF DONORS AND AFFECTED NATIONS

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SUFFICIENTLY MOTIVATED ; (B) PRIORITY SHOULD BE PLACED ON INITIATING AND IMPLEMENTING PROJECTS DESIGNED TO SOLVE THE PROBLEMS THAT ARE ALREADY WELL KNOWN TO THOSE WHO HAVE STUDIED THEM, AND (C) RATHER THAN LARGE CONFERENCE OF MANY INTERESTS, NEED IS FOR SMALL GROUP KNOWLEDGEABLE DECISION-MAKERS WHO CAN PRESS AHEAD.

3. FOLLOWING HABASHI REACTION, CHARGE INDICATED U. S. PROPOSAL QUITE FLUID AT THIS STAGE AND DEPENDS UPON AFRICAN INTEREST AND RESPONSE. SOME STATES APPEAR ENTHUSIASTIC WHILE OTHERS HAVE MODIFICATIONS. USG NOT WEDDED TO RIGID CONCEPT. CURRENT APPROACH DESIGNED ELICIT RESPONSES SUCH AS HABASHI' S AND CURRENT U. S. THOUGHTS NOT ENTIRELY INCOMPATIBLE. FOR EXAMPLE, LARGER CONFERENCE MIGHT BE USEFUL IN DRAWING SUFFICIENT ATTENTION TO MATTER TO INSURE INCREASED RESOURCES EVEN IF DATA AND KNOWLEDGE ALREADY EXIST.

3. COMMENT: HAVASHI HAS LONG EXPERIENCED IN AGRICULTURE AND HAS SPONSORED SEHALIAN RESEARCH WORK AND PROJECTS BOTH AS AN FAO AND GOS SOFFICIAL. HIS RESPONSE, THEREFORE, IS BASED ON HIS TECHNICAL KNOWLEDGE. NEVERTHELESS, IT ILLUSTRATES THE DIFFICULTY IN RESTRICTING A SEHELIAN CONFERENCE TO AN OUTLINE OF GENERAL PRINCIPLES RATHER THAN DEFINITION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF PROJECTS. HABASHI' S RESPONSE SHOULD NOT BE CONSIDERED A DEFINITIVE GOS REPLY; SUDAN WOULD CERTAINLY ATTEND A SEHALIAN CONFERENCE, BUT ITS ROLE WOULD CERTAINLY REFLECT HABASHI' S VIEWS.

FRITTS

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*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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